

HOUSE BILL 2391  
By Curtiss

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, relative to fire safety in certain health care facilities.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 11, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

68-11-2\_\_.

(a) A licensed nursing home, as defined in §68-11-201, that is not fully sprinklered as of the effective date of this act shall be fully sprinklered in accordance with the compliance dates set forth in sections (a), (b) and (c) of this section. Those compliance dates shall be as follows:

(1) If the facility provides patient care above or below the ground floor, the facility must submit to the department of health sprinkler plans for the full sprinkling of the facility within twelve (12) months from the effective date of this act. Once the department approves such plans, the facility must complete installation of sprinklers no more than eighteen (18) months from the date of approval of those plans.

(2) If the facility provides patient care only on the ground floor, the facility must submit to the department of health sprinkler plans for the full sprinkling of the facility within eighteen (18) months

from the effective date of this act. Once the department approves such plans, the facility must complete installation of sprinklers no more than eighteen (18) months from the date of approval of those plans.

(b) A facility not fully sprinklered as of the effective date of this act may choose to completely replace the facility as an alternative to complying with subsection (a). If the facility elects to do so, the new facility must be approved by the health services and development agency, have approved building plans from the department of health, and be in construction beyond the footing stage no later than three (3) years after the effective date of this act.

(c) Any facility not currently licensed as of the effective date of this act shall be required to be fully sprinklered prior to the facility being licensed by the department of health.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2004, the public welfare requiring it